

# NEWS RELEASE



## SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

---

For Immediate Release  
October 25, 2002

Contact: Dash Stolarz  
323 221-9944 x198

### **Ground broken on Major New Mulholland Drive Parkland**

*State of the art trailhead will provide San Fernando Valley residents with easy access to the largest urban wilderness area in the United States*

Woodland Hills, California Secretary for Resources, Mary D. Nichols, Congressman Brad Sherman, Assemblymember Fran Pavley, Los Angeles City Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski, and Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis Zine were on hand to break ground on a major new 61.4 –acre park off of “dirt” Mulholland Drive in Woodland Hills. Located at the western entrance to Mulholland Gateway Park ½ mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, the new park will provide San Fernando Valley residents with easy access into Topanga State Park and the 21,000 acre “Big Wild,” the largest urban wilderness in the United States.

At the event, plans were unveiled for the full-service park design, which will include native tree, shrub, and groundcover landscaping, state-of-the-art permeable and semi-permeable surfaces, hiking trails, a 70-car parking lot, picnic areas, interpretative kiosks, self-composting restroom facilities, a low impact ranger residence, and interpretive facility and outdoor classroom.

(-More)

“West Mulholland Trailhead will serve as a model for future environmentally sound park facility construction,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. “The exceptional facilities will make it easier for families and school groups to explore our great mountains--in their own backyards.”

One of the highest priority properties on the Conservancy’s Workprogram for many years, the property was purchased in 2001 for \$6 million with Proposition 12 funds. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, a joint powers agency of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, is overseeing the construction of the park. Upon completion of the park next Summer, the facility will be transferred to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) as an extension of Topanga State Park. It offers spectacular views across the San Fernando Valley to the Simi Hills and provides critical viewshed and watershed of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the MRCA are dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of open space and parkland throughout Southern California.

###